

overthrown, and his confident belief that this will soon take place, and the authority of the Federal Government everywhere be reestablished. He expresses great admiration of the brilliant achievements recently in the West, and of the military genius which they manifest.

**TRANSFER OF JUDGE FREERE.**

Judge Freere has obtained leave to vacate, for the time being, his office as Assistant Adjutant-General and Provost-Judge of Alexandria, in order to join Gen. Heintzelman's division as Provost-Marshal.

**LETTERS TO THE SOUTHERN STATES.**

The War Department refuses to transmit any letters to the Southern States.

THE ISSUE OF PASSER.

Numerous passes have been given to women, children, and persons in ill-health to return to their friends and families. Passes for business purposes or to persons merely desiring to visit the South and West are invariably refused.

CONDITION OF THE TROOPS.

Reports from every military department received during the past week represent the troops as being in good condition, and that there prevails among them a vigorous patriotic spirit for action in the field. Numerous applications by regiments and officers have been made to be relieved from duty in garrison posts, and placed where they will have an opportunity of meeting the enemy in battle.

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DEATH OF GEN. LANDER.

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1862.

Gen. Lander died this afternoon at Paw Paw, Western Virginia, from the debilitating effects of his wound received at Edwards's Ferry. His body is on the way to this city, where his widow resides. Gen. Shields succeeds Gen. Lander in command.

Gen. Lander had every attention which his old and well-tried friends around him could bestow. His

death was somewhat sudden. It was not until 5 o'clock this afternoon that his wife received intelligence of his illness. She hurried ately took measures for obtaining a special train to proceed thither, but before the arrangements were completed, Secretary Stanton called in person, and with much feeling and delicacy acquainted her with the fact of her husband's death. Secretary Chase and other distinguished friends subsequently visited her in her affliction.

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### THE RELEASED PRISONERS AT PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, March 2, 1861.

About 400 released prisoners arrived by the Baltimore train at 1 o'clock this morning. They were received at the depot by an immense crowd of friends, which had assembled with the expectation of their arrival several hours earlier. They partook

— Boston Commonwealth, Salem.

The recent victories will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, March 4, by a grand military and naval ball at the Academy of Music.

**THE U. S. FRIGATE VERMONT IN TROUBLE.**  
Boston, March 4, 1892.

The schooner Flying Mile, which arrived at Chatham last night, reports on the 25th inst., Cape Cod bearing west by north 90 miles, spoke the U. S. frigate Vermont, from Boston for Port Royal, with loss of rudder, both bow anchors, a suit of sails, and four boats; wanted steam to tow her in. Com. Hudson will send the ship San Jacinto, gunboat Anson, and sloop Osage, and two towboats in

search of her. They all leave to-night.

**THE OLD POINT BOAT.**  
BALTIMORE, March 7, 1902.  
The Old Point boat brings no news. The flag of truce boat, with prisoners, had not arrived when the news left.

**THE SIEGE OF FORT MONROE.**  
REPORT OF COL. J. B. WADSWORTH, CHIEF OF  
ENGINEER STAFF.  
LIVINGSTON DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA.  
FORT MONROE, Feb. 25, 1902.  
Major-General U. S. GRANT, Commanding.

Two prearranged trips made by the steamer for the inspection of the river navigation—were well  
planned for the purpose. The lower and principal  
one were mounted nine pieces—eight 32-pound guns  
and a 10-inch columbiad. At the upper, one gun of  
the exterior form and dimensions of a 10-inch columbiad,  
but bored as a 32-pounder and rifled; also two 32-pounder  
cannonades.

Both these batteries are smothered or excavated in  
the hillside. In the lower one, strong traverses are  
left between the guns to secure them against an enfilade  
fire. The elevation above the water—say  
30 feet at the time of the gunboat attack—gave them a  
fine command of the river, and made the task of  
attacking them in front an arduous one. The range  
of the guns in use was, however, quite limited.

[The report is accompanied by a diagram of the works. A  
small portion of the report in which the location is devoted  
to explanation of the diagram. The statements used in this  
article are taken verbatim from the report.]

These defenses consisted in the main of what have  
come to be called rifle-pits—bollow ditches, the earth  
from which is thrown to the point affording shelter  
from the fire of the attack.

The strength of the position of this work, which  
has been the subject of much study, varied in

Along the front of this exterior line the trees had been felled, and the brush cut and bent over, breast high, making a wide *avertine*, very difficult to pass through. The line ran along a ridge, cut through by several ravines, running toward the river. The hill sides rise by abrupt ascents to a height of perhaps 75 or 80 feet.

Our army approached the place with very little knowledge of its topography. Our first line of battle was formed on the high crest, in some open fields opposite the enemy's center. On the left, we were established on a line of heights in general parallelism with the enemy's outworks, and extending a distance of over 3 miles.

Various elevations and spurs of the hills afforded positions for our artillery, from which we annoyed the enemy, but which were not of such commanding character as to enable us to achieve decisive results. The ranges were long, and the thick woods prevented clear vision.

In the next two days our lines were gradually

On the 13th a gallant charge was made against the enemy on our right, and was probably only prevented from being successful by the fall of the Colonel leading it, who was severely wounded.

Up to the 15th, our operations had been chiefly those of investment, but we had not gained a position from which our artillery could be advantageously employed. On the 16th, the enemy seemed to grow uncomfortable under the constricting process, came out in his reinforcements and attacked our right with great force and determination, achieving considerable success in the afternoon. This active movement necessitated active retaliation. On the left, wing attack was ordered on the one flank, and the right wing supported and ordered to retake the ground lost in the morning.

How well both orders were executed need not here be stated. On the right our former position was taken and passed, and on the left a successful assault gave us possession of a position within the en-

only a three-day period the way to a safe center of  
which, in addition, was prevented to from occupying  
with our first artillery, which would readily have  
annihilated the enemy's main works.

This would have from the ground so surely won in the  
for months, probably still more, our possession of  
a village, between which their lines, induced the  
enemy to begin to take to the pursuit of the Bab.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, General, your  
obedient servant, J. D. VAN BUREN, Gov. of N. Y.